

Children Find Heart Behind Armor:

Soldiers Look to Children, See Future of Iraq

By Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae
Bruns

39th Brigade Combat Team
Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq— Sister Benina Hurmez Shukuana is a Catholic nun who runs a school in downtown Baghdad. She has taught three generations of children, some of which have come back to teach in the same school.

Her legacy has seen the rise and fall of Saddam Hussein — the persecution of Christians, Jews, and Shia Muslims alike, yet her school has managed to flourish.

Several years ago, Mother Theresa spent 45 days with Sister Benina in Baghdad. They were close friends she

said. And they were of the same order, Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.

"She said everyday she and the kids get together and say a prayer to keep the coalition forces safe," said Staff Sgt. Jim Ellifrit, 24, of Vancouver, Wash., who recently visited the school to meet with Sister Benina.

Despite the school's Catholic affiliation, children of families from all religious backgrounds attend.

Sister Benina's school is in a sector of Baghdad that the 1st

Cavalry Division's 39th Brigade Combat Team is helping rebuild. Soldiers who recently went to assess her school found there is not a real

youngsters.

"Our mission is the children," Ellifrit said. "We want to create an environment where they can have a good future."

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where they can have a good future."**

**-SSG Jim Ellifrit,
39th Brigade Combat Team**

The project, now moving through the bidding process, will include clean up for a soccer field and a protective fence for safety.

"It will be open to the community with controlled access," Staff Sgt. B.M. Hess said. "It will not be used as a parking lot so that people can just throw trash in there."

While at the school, Sgt. Kyle Neuenschwander, 24, of Medford, Ore., distributed t-shirts to children.

"I expected to get rocks thrown at me but it wasn't the case," Neuenschwander said. "Their country is war stricken with forces driving around their roads armed to the teeth with ungodly amounts of fire power and yet they're happy we're here."

After distributing t-shirts, several children playfully lifted their shirts to show Neuenschwander they had mischievously tucked away three or four in their pants rather than the allotted one they were allowed.

"Hey!" yelled Neuenschwander.

They ran off laughing as if to dare him to a game of chase.



Smiling children crowd together hoping to receive a t-shirt from Sgt. Kyle Neuenschwander who handed them out at the school.

By Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns, 39th BCT PAO

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After the Culture Shock:**Cultural Awareness is Key to Successful Operations**

By Staff Sgt. Pat O'Halloran
1st Cavalry Division G5
Operations NCOIC

Submerging into a new culture brings challenges, as most Soldiers can attest. Language and customs developed over thousands of years are never easy to learn.

Attempting to decipher a foreign culture while conducting combat operations adds a dimension and suspicion to what may otherwise be normal, everyday interactions.

Understanding the complexities can bear fruit in a number of ways: a willingness to work with coalition forces; volunteering information; introductions to key leaders.

The 1st Cavalry Division G5 office will provide an ongoing column discussing some of the intricacies of the culture in order to help troops understand the people they are working with, and against.

Courtesy

In a recent, non-scientific survey of local Baghdad residents, a view of the local residents toward U.S. Soldiers was that they seem more verbally abusive and outwardly aggressive toward them. Given the recent upsurge in violence directed at coalition forces, it is understandable that Soldiers may want to take a heavy hand in their dealings with local citizens.

But while not detracting from the mission at hand, keeping cool and refraining from abusive or profane language can go a long way toward keeping the local populace behind us.

Many times, the inability to follow U.S. instructions stems from a language barrier rather than defiance toward

Soldiers.

Proper or improper behavior is unlikely to sway the small minority attempting to use violence as its means of detracting the U.S. from its goal of a free, democratic Iraq.



On the other hand, nothing positive can be gained from screaming or cursing at

locals. Continued abuse by coalition troops will only turn potential friends and supporters into potential enemies.

Professional Relationships

What we may perceive as avoiding discussion of a difficult topic may actually be laying the groundwork for frank talks, according to the "Iraq Country Handbook," published by the Department of Defense.

Rather than jumping right into a meeting, oftentimes an Iraqi will use initial profession-

al meetings as social gatherings. This is because in professional settings, "Arabs operate by personal relations more than by time constraints, mission requirements, or professional skills," according to the handbook.

Refreshments and polite conversation emphasize the protocol of the initial meetings. These rarely include any substantive talks. When business is addressed, it is usually done at a later meeting, or even dinner.

Of course, this runs counter to what is done in U.S. society, and especially in the military. In our world, a meeting without an agenda is a waste of time. In the Middle East world, it is inherent that leaders at all levels understand that an introductory meeting without an agenda, if possible given the mission constraints, may actually lead to a more productive, long-term working relationship.

Today in History**May 28**

► From historychannel.com

1935 John Steinbeck's first successful novel, *Tortilla Flat*, is published
1937 The Golden Gate Bridge opened to vehicular traffic
1940 Belgium surrenders unconditionally

1954 Alfred Hitchcock's *Dial M for Murder* opens at New York's Paramount Theater
1969 U.S. troops abandon "Hamburger Hill"
1987 Matthias Rust lands his plane in Red Square
1991 Ethiopian capital falls to rebels

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

Speak slowly

aH-chee aala-kee-fek

Friday

High: 105
Low: 85

**Saturday**

High: 101
Low: 79

**Sunday**

High: 105
Low: 77



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office

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Bell County Expo Graduation Schedule

(Times are Central Standard Time)

May 27, 2004 8:00PM -
Belton High School
May 28, 2004 7:30PM -
Copperas Cove High School
May 29, 2004 10:00AM -
Temple High School
May 29, 2004 3:00PM -
Killeen High School
May 29, 2004 8:00PM -
Ellison High School
May 30, 2004 2:00PM -
Harker Heights High School
May 30, 2004 6:00PM -
Shoemaker High School

Fort Hood Canine 'Frenke' Honored

► From AP

NEW YORK- A member of Fort Hood's military police brigade will be honored tonight in New York in a ceremony — fit for a dog. Make that a German shepherd.

"Frenke" has done duties in Afghanistan and Iraq including sniffing out explosives, guarding checkpoints and protecting troops.

The seven-year-old canine and his handler, Sergeant Herman Haynes, will be honored at a gala sponsored by the American Kennel Club and the Intrepid Foundation.

The Austin American-Statesman reports Haynes and Frenke will receive the Kennel Club's first heroic military working dog award.



Frenke, a Fort Hood military police canine and his handler Sergeant Herman Haynes, were to be honored by the American Kennel Club during the 17th Annual Intrepid Fleet Week Gala in New York. The ceremony is presented as a salute to the men, women and service dogs of the U.S. Armed Forces.

FIRST TEAM

Professional, Polite & Prepared to Kill

Soldiers Brace Their Footing in the Purpose Seen in Children's Faces

Continued from Page 1

But Neuenschwander's heart is too big. Not only did they make off with extra t-shirts, he also ended up giving away his rank.

"They're very crafty but they are the same as any kids I have ever met," Cpl. Matthew Mintz, 33, of Tillamook, Ore. said. "It makes me miss my kids."

Ellifrit lost track of the marriage proposals he received as he signed autographs for kids at the school.

"Now I know how all those celebrities feel when they are trying to get back to their dressing rooms and people are shoving pen and paper at them," Neuenschwander said. "I got mobbed."

As Ellifrit continued to sign autographs he felt a tiny hand slip into his.

"I went to shake the little guy's hand but he wouldn't let go," Ellifrit said. "He began pulling on me and then I understood he just wanted help getting outside of the school grounds."

A swarm of youngsters sandwiched in for autographs and t-shirts left little room for mobility, especially for a small boy who just wanted to get

home.

Ellifrit helped walk the little tike through the crowd and sent him on his way.

Debates mount and polls tilt, but American Soldiers brace their footing in purpose, purpose they say they see in the faces of children.

"They give this mission meaning," Neuenschwander said.

Steadying themselves in a tumultuous environment, they understand a larger picture.

"Information is going to win this war, not bullets," said Ellifrit as he sat contemplating the future of Iraq.

"Our mission here has to be the children. We can keep capturing people but until the new generation takes over, there will still be old religious and party bias, and old problems."



By Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns, 39th BCT PAO

Staff Sgt. Jim Ellifrit, 24, of Vancouver, Wash., signed autographs for children at the school. Ellifrit recently visited the school to meet with Sister Benina.

Top Seeds Bowing Out of French Open

► From AP

PARIS- A photo of Andy Roddick graced the cover of the French Open program Wednesday morning, along with the headline, "L'Americain de service" — a play on words that makes reference to his best shot and translates to, "The token American."

By evening, he was gone, upset by a Frenchman ranked 125th who hadn't won a match on tour in 2004 until Monday. Roddick joined Andre Agassi and eight other compatriots on the way home, making this the first Grand Slam tournament in more than 30 years without a U.S. man in the third round.

In a match preceding Roddick's 3-6, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-2 setback against Olivier Mutis, women's defending champion and top-ranked Justine Henin-Hardenne lost 7-5, 6-4 to Italy's Tathiana Garbin, ranked 86 th.

That ended Henin-Hardenne's 15-match winning streak in majors, spanning

titles at the U.S. Open and Australian Open. It also made her the second defending women's champion since 1925 to exit the French Open in the second round.

Henin-Hardenne missed the past six weeks with a viral infection, and against Garbin she double-faulted 10 times and converted only 4 of 18 break points. As lethargic as she was, Henin-Hardenne appeared to be climbing back, leading 4-2 in the second set. But she didn't win another game.

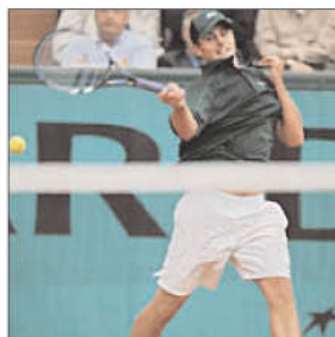
That match ended under sprinkles, and the rain continued into the start of Roddick's match, making the court slower than normal — bad news for someone who relies on the kick of speedy serves for easy points.

Still, the U.S. Open champion led 2-1 in sets and was up a break in the fourth. By then, though, Mutis had the measure of Roddick's serve, cobbling together six breaks the rest of

the way.

By the end, Roddick looked out of sorts, meekly swatting at some balls and watching others fly past. He complained to the chair umpire about Mutis' grunting and his moving during Roddick's service motion.

There will be zero American men in a major's third round for the first time since the 1973 Australian Open — none entered that tournament.



AP

America's last hope in the French Open, Andy Roddick, was beaten on clay by Frenchman Olivier Mutis.

Today in Cav History



1855 - 2nd Cavalry Regiment was organized in Louisville, Ky., later to become the 5th Cavalry Regiment.

1951 - Division patrols again across the 38th Parallel.



MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Detroit 17
Kansas City 7

Tampa Bay 5
Minnesota 4

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Florida 5
Cincinnati 2

Milwaukee 3
Los Angeles 1

St. Louis 6
Pittsburgh 3

San Diego 4 (10 innings)
Colorado 3

TV GUIDE



18:00	Ozzy & Drix/ As Told By Ginger	Tonight Show with Jay Leno/ The Late Show with David Letterman	AMA Motocross	The X-Files
19:00	Jeopardy/ Headline News	Access Hollywood 19:30	SportsCenter	The Wild Thornberrys/ Spongebob Squarepants
20:00	ESPNews/ Headline News	Blast From the Past	French Open Tennis - Early Round Coverage Day 5	The Simpsons/ The Cosby Show
21:00	The Simpsons/ Malcolm in the Middle			The Dead Zone
22:00	The Apprentice	Baby Geniuses		Boston Public



NHL

STANLEY CUP FINALS (Best of 7 series)

Calgary 4
Tampa Bay 1
(Calgary leads series 1-0)



NBA

CONFERENCE FINALS

(Best of 7 series)
Western Conference

Minnesota
@ Los Angeles
(Los Angeles leads series 2-1)